



TOWN OF LOS GATOS

FALL 2007

OUR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Town of Los Gatos Guiding Principles

- Small Town Service
- Community Stewardship
- Future Focus

Los Gatos Goes Green

Climate disruption is an urgent threat to the environmental and economic health of our communities. Many cities in this country and abroad already have strong local policies and programs in place to reduce global warming pollution, but more action is needed at the local, state, and federal levels. Government leadership

and personal lifestyle changes are key to meeting the climate protection challenge.

Los Gatos Environmental Protection

The Town takes seriously its task of community stewardship, which includes resource conservation and pollution prevention. A list of some of the Town's many environmental accomplishments can be found at our website, www.losgatosca.gov/green.

In August, the Town joined over 600 cities in committing to slowing global climate change by signing the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement. Under the agreement, participating cities commit to take the following three actions:

- Strive to meet or beat the Kyoto Protocol targets in their own communities, through actions ranging from anti-sprawl land-use policies to

public information campaigns;

- Urge their state governments, and the federal government, to enact policies and programs to meet or beat the greenhouse gas emission reduction target suggested for the United States in the Kyoto Protocol – 7% reduction from 1990 levels by 2012; and
- Urge the U.S. Congress to pass the bipartisan greenhouse gas reduction legislation, which would establish a national emission trading system.

During the next year, the Town will be conducting greenhouse gas emissions inventories to determine the emissions produced as a result of municipal operations. We will also conduct a community emissions inventory which will be used to develop a regional emissions inventory. These inventories will serve as the base line for measuring reduction and will help to determine the most effective projects the Town can undertake.

10 Things You Can Do to Protect the Climate

Personal action is crucial to fighting global climate change. Here are a few things you can do to make a difference.

- Drive Smart** – Cut down on speeding, rapid acceleration and heavy braking. Inefficient driving can reduce gas mileage by 30%.
- Pull the Plug** – Disconnect electronic devices that are not in use. Passive usage now accounts for 10% of all home energy use.
- Think Before You Fly** – Take vacations closer to home and use teleconferences for work meetings. Air travel is one of the fastest-growing producers of greenhouse gas emissions.
- 2 Degrees = 2,000 Pounds** – Set the thermostat 2 degrees higher in the summer and lower in the winter to save one ton of carbon emissions yearly.
- Turn off the Tap** – Save water and save energy: 20% of electricity and 30% of natural gas in California is used just to transport, treat and heat water and wastewater.
- Light Right** – Replace incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescents that use 60% less energy.
- Take the Oil Out of Your Food** – Buy more local groceries and products instead of items that must be transported long-distance.
- Lose the Trash** – Use products with less packaging. Manufacturing, transporting, and disposing of packaging all contribute to greenhouse gas emissions.
- Cancel Your Carbon** – Calculate your greenhouse gas emissions, then pay to “offset” the damage by funding alternative energy, reforestation and other green actions.
- Be Active** – Talk to your neighbors and friends and encourage them to make a difference, too!

Los Gatos Prepared Insert

Included in this edition of the “Vista” you will find valuable information on how you, your family, and neighbors can remain safe during and after an emergency. This insert is part of the “Los Gatos Prepared” campaign which focuses on

self-sufficiency for the first 72 hours after an event such as an earthquake occurs, and from two to four weeks in the event of a pandemic flu. Please review the information and then take the recommended actions to prepare you and your family.



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Capital Improvement Update

Roberts Road Bridge Replacement

This multi-year project will replace the existing bridge that CalTrans has classified as being in “poor condition.” Grant funding has been secured for bridge design; this first phase is anticipated to be completed by next fall. After the design has been completed, the Town will apply for phase two grant

funding to construct the new bridge. The new bridge should be completed by 2010.

Highway 9 Safety Improvements

Bicycle and pedestrian facilities along Highway 9 from Los Gatos to Saratoga will be improved through a multi-year

See Capital Improvement Update, page 2



The *Town of Los Gatos Vista* is published by the Town of Los Gatos Community Services Department. Your comments are welcome.

Send your comments to:

Town of Los Gatos Vista
Attn: Community Services Director
PO Box 949
Los Gatos, CA 95031
(408) 354-6820
community@losgatosca.gov

Get Involved: Join A Commission!

The Town has a number of volunteer commissions, boards and committees whose purpose is to act in an advisory capacity to the Town Council. If you would like to get more involved in your community or become more familiar with municipal government, this is your opportunity.

Participation on a commission, board or committee is a satisfying and challenging experience, as well as a significant responsibility. It provides an opportunity to become intimately familiar with the operating policies and challenges of municipal government. It personifies citizen participation in policy determination and allows commissioners the opportunity to play a vital role in the communications process between residents and elected representatives.

As a member of one of the Town's commissions, boards or committees, you can focus on community needs that require your understanding, dedication, enthusiasm, vision and experience.

Planning Commission

One example of the Town's commissions is the Planning Commission. The members of this commission advise the Town Council on amendments to the General Plan and Zoning Ordinance. It also decides subdivisions, land use permits, and other land use applications. There are seven members that serve 4-year terms. You are welcome to come to any of the Commission's regular meetings held on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month at 7 pm at the Town Council Chambers, 110 East

Main Street. You may verify the date, time and agenda of a meeting by going to www.losgatosca.gov/agendas or calling the Community Development Department at (408) 354-6874.

How to Get Involved

For more information about all of the Town's commissions, boards and committees, visit the Town's website at www.losgatosca.gov/commissions. There you will find information about each commission and a list of current vacancies. Applications and more information are also available in the Clerk Department at 110 East Main Street. You can contact the Clerk Department by phone at (408) 354-6834 or via email at clerk@losgatosca.gov.

Volunteers Making a Difference

The Los Gatos Town-to-Town Katrina Consortium, formed in 2005 in response to the devastation caused by Hurricane

Katrina, is still going strong. With the leadership of the Town, a community consortium of organizations, individuals and businesses are sharing resources, expertise, and volunteer time to help the residents of Pascagoula, Mississippi rebuild their city.

What You Can Do

If you would like to help the Los Gatos Town-to-Town Katrina Consortium, here are some things you can do:

- Volunteer for a work group to help roof, sheetrock, and provide other hands-on rebuilding assistance.
- Make contact with your counterpart in Pascagoula (e.g., service club to service club, school principal to school principal, banker to banker) and ask what specific needs you may be able to meet.

- Donate funds to the local account that has been established to support Pascagoula recovery. The Consortium Steering Committee will send these funds to Pascagoula for rebuilding projects as they are identified. Donations may be mailed to: "Los Gatos-Katrina Fund," Attn: Steve Rauwolf, Los Gatos-Saratoga Community Education and Recreation, 123 E. Main Street, Los Gatos, CA 95030.

For more information, visit the Los Gatos Town-to-Town Katrina Consortium website, www.losgatoskatrina.org. For more information about other local volunteer efforts: visit the Community Unity website: www.losgatosca.gov/cu.

Community Unity Makes Volunteering Easy

Are you a community organization in need of volunteers? Or are you a student who needs community service hours? Visit the Community Unity website, www.losgatosca.gov/cu.

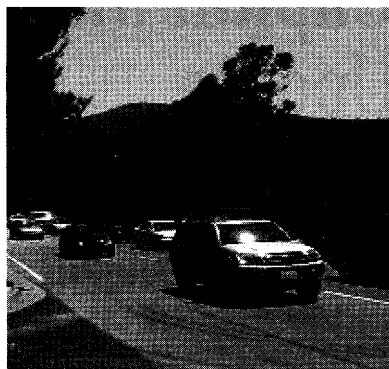
Here you will find more information about Community Unity, how to register a project and request volunteers, and how to volunteer yourself or your organization. You will also find out how to subscribe to the Community Unity email service, which alerts you when new volunteer projects have been listed.



Capital Improvement Update

Continued from page 1

improvement project. The first phase will improve the bicycle route system to reduce hazards and improve safety for bicyclists along this route. Funded with State Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvement grant funds, Phase I is anticipated to be completed during winter, 2007. Phase II will improve the pedestrian routes along Highway 9, and is a longer range improvement plan. More information is available on the web at: www.highway9safety.com.



School Route Evaluation and Design

Through this project, staff will evaluate pedestrian access near Fisher and Van Meter Schools, and prepare a concept design for construction of pedestrian facilities. This evaluation will identify infrastructure needs and provide cost estimates for future budgetary purposes. It will also be used as supporting documentation when pursuing competitive grant funding.



Bachman Park Irrigation Upgrade Project

This winter, Bachman Park's lawn area will be partially closed for renovation to replace its outdated irrigation system. The new irrigation system has been designed with input from the Santa Clara Valley Water District, and will have water-saving devices to irrigate the lawn in a much more efficient manner. The current irrigation system's efficiency rating is 5%. The new system will be closer to 100% efficient. Once the construction dates are known, crews will post signs at the park to inform park users of the renovation dates.



Friends' Friday Forums

The Friends of Los Gatos Library will host a Friday Forum on November 9 to introduce Library Director Peggy Conaway's newest local history book, titled *Los Gatos Generations*. Published by Arcadia Publishing in mid-October, the book covers the time period of 1840 – 1960. It includes 225 photographs, many from the collections of Los Gatos families and published for the first time. The doors to the Town Council Chambers will open at 7:00 pm for refreshments and book signing. Peggy's talk will start at 7:30 pm. She will show some of the history project's latest images, and some of the photographs that have not appeared in any of her books.

On December 7, the Friends will once again host a Holiday Music Program of chamber music, featuring harpist Mary Kay Kane, accompanied by her family, who play stringed instruments. The program will start in the Council Chambers at 7 pm.

"Silicon Valley Reads" has selected Cupertino author Bo Caldwell's book, *Distant Land of My Father*, as its 2008 choice for the county-wide reading campaign. The "Reads" program, sponsored by Santa Clara County Office of Education and the San Jose Public Library Foundation, is in its sixth year. The goal is to promote reading and build a sense of community through dialogue

among diverse readers. Caldwell will sign books and then present a program in the Council Chambers on February 29, starting at 7 pm.

David Lynch, an authority on the San Andreas Fault and author of *Field Guide to the San Andreas Fault*, will present a program sometime in the spring, date to be determined.

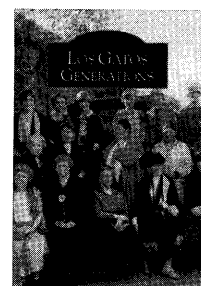
All Friday Forums are free and open to the public. For more information, please contact the Friends of the Library at 399-5700.

New Library Self-Service Circulation System

A major project at the library this fall and winter will be the purchase and installation of an improved radio frequency identification self-service circulation system. The new system will provide much easier and faster self-check options for library patrons and improved security for our materials. The library's current self-check system has experienced technical problems and has reached its end-of-life. With our new system, which is fully portable to a new library building, patrons will be able to quickly and efficiently check out their own library materials, while the library will experience a saving of staff time. The library expects the new system to be operational at the beginning of 2008.

New Local History Book

Los Gatos Generations is the title of a new Los Gatos local history published by Arcadia Publishing in mid-October. The new book, authored by Library Director Peggy Conaway, focuses on the people who were in Los Gatos from 1840–1960, and the times in which they lived. Inventors, innovators, intellectuals, writers, and artists graced each generation, along with many hopeful, hardworking people who cultivated the richness of the soil and helped to build an exceptional community. The inevitable tragedy and troubles which beset the little town are also covered, including fires and episodes of raw frontier violence in the decade of the 1880s. The book includes more than 200 historic photographs, many from private collections and never before published. The book will be on sale at the library, at The Museums of Los Gatos, in local retail stores, and by online booksellers. Profits from the Friends of the Library sales of the new book are returned to the library for continued support of the history project.



Children's Programs at the Library

The Los Gatos Children's Library will continue to host a full series of events this fall and winter. Programs are held in the Children's room at the Library (110 E. Main St.). Please see the list below for dates, times, and targeted ages. A special thanks to the Friends of the Los Gatos Library for their generous financial support that makes these programs possible! For additional information, please contact the Children's Librarian at (408) 354-6893 or childrenslibrarian@losgatosca.gov.

Ongoing Events

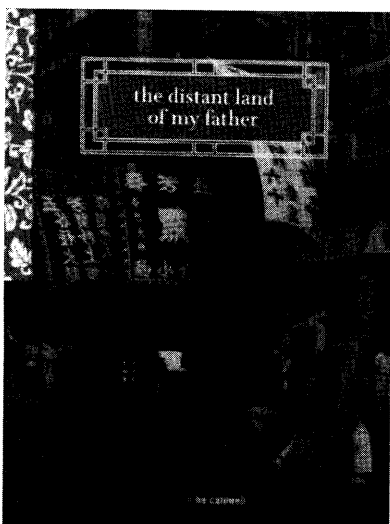
Storytimes

Toddler Storytime

Mondays @ 10:30 am
18 mos – 3 yrs (walkers)

Preschool Storytime

Tuesdays @ 10:30 am
3 – 5 yrs



Family Storytime

Thursdays @ 7 pm
Kindergarteners – Adult

Mother Goose Storytime

Fridays @ 10:30 am
0 – 18 mos (pre-walkers)

Books Together

Mondays, Tuesdays & Wednesdays
from 3 – 5 pm
All Ages

After-School Programs

Join us as we learn to knit bookmarks and listen to stories.
Tuesdays from 4 – 5 pm

Make Your Mark at the Los Gatos Library

3rd Grade and Up

Last Thursday of each month

3rd Grade Book Club @ 3 pm
4th & 5th Grade Book Club @ 3:30 pm
6th & 7th Grade Book Social @ 4 pm

Special Events

Sponsored by the Friends of the Library

Sing Along with Chip Curry

Tuesday, November 6 @ 10:30 am
Preschoolers

Join us at the Library for Special Activities and Prizes to Celebrate National Young Readers Day!

Tuesday, November 13, 10 am – 8 pm
All Ages

Holiday Stories with Ventriloquist Steve Chaney

Wednesday, December 5 @ 4 pm
Kindergarteners – Adult

Sing Along with Chip Curry

Friday, December 7 @ 10:30 am
Pre-Walkers

Art in the Council Chambers

The Town of Los Gatos is pleased to present Art in the Council Chambers. Six different exhibits are displayed during the year in the Town Council Chambers. Each exhibit provides an enhanced environment for our community to experience a variety of art completed by local artists. This project is coordinated by a sub-committee of the Town of Los Gatos Arts Commission.

Los Gatos – Saratoga Camera Club - The Art of Photography

Exhibition Dates:
September 6 – November 18, 2007

Los Gatos Art Association

Exhibition Dates:
November 18, 2007 – January 3, 2008

Artist's Reception:
November 16, 2007, 6 – 8 pm

Jan Pitcher/Kelly Castro

Exhibition Dates:
January – March 13, 2008

Artist's Reception:
January 10, 2008, 6 – 8 pm

For more information, please contact the CSD at 354-6820 or visit the Town's website.



Fog-Shrouded Tree, Yosemite by Mary Ellen Kaschub

Senior Center News

The Los Gatos Senior Center is located in the Neighborhood Center, at 208 East Main Street. It is a gathering place for local seniors. The Center is staffed by the Town's Senior Coordinator and senior volunteers eager to assist you with questions about services, programs, and activities geared to seniors. If you or someone you love is a senior, we invite you to stop by for a cup of coffee and a tour of all the Senior Center has to offer.

For more information on any Senior Center activity or service, call the Senior Center at (408) 354-1514 or visit the Town's website, www.losgatosca.gov/seniors.

Following is just a sample of the activities planned for this fall and winter:

Dinner Club

Do you love good food, but hate to go to restaurants by yourself? Join the Senior Center Dinner Club! The Dinner Club meets on the second Wednesday of each month, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm, for a no-host dinner at a local restaurant. Club members generally live alone, and enjoy the opportunity to get out and enjoy the company and conversation of others. For more information, call the Senior Center.



Wednesday Movies

On the fourth Wednesday of each month, a top-rated movie is shown in the Neighborhood Center Lounge at 1 pm. Admission and snacks are free! Join other film buffs and enjoy your favorites on the big-screen television.

Holiday Dance

A Holiday Dance will be held this December at the Neighborhood Center. Live music will be provided by the popular local group, The Nob Hill Sounds, and light holiday refreshments will be available. Admission is free. Contact the Senior Center for the celebration date.

Casino Day Trips

Each quarter, the Senior Center and Los Gatos-Saratoga Community Education and Recreation co-host a day trip to a California casino. The trip leaves the Senior Center at 8 am, and returns at 6:30 pm. The ticket price includes round-trip transportation on a private luxury motorcoach. Call the Senior Center for more information on dates, destinations, and ticket prices.

Senior Thanksgiving Dinner

November 17 • 12 noon to 2 pm

On November 17, a special seniors-only Thanksgiving Dinner will be held at the Neighborhood Center, 208 East Main Street. This free event is a wonderful opportunity for seniors to get together and enjoy a meal prepared and donated by generous local merchants. No reservations are required; just come and enjoy tasty food, good conversation, live music, and a chance at great door prizes. The meal, which includes turkey with all the trimmings, will be served at noon.

Beat Colon Cancer

True or False?

The risk of dying from cancer in the U.S. is increasing.

According to the American Cancer Society, 68% of respondents to a recent poll answered "true." The ACS agrees and states that the actual number of people who are diagnosed and die of cancer each year has indeed grown – because the U.S. population is growing larger and is aging. Cancer is more common among the elderly, so more cases are to be expected as the average age of the U.S. population increases.

Reality

A closer look at the numbers by age group shows the risk of cancer for Americans is actually dropping. The risk of being diagnosed with cancer and the risk of dying of cancer have decreased since the early 1990s. Fewer than half the people diagnosed with cancer today will die of the disease. Some are completely cured while many more people survive for years with a good quality of life, thanks to treatments that control many types of cancer.

For example, more than 90% of patients diagnosed with early-stage colorectal cancer survive five years after their diagnosis. Regular screening can help find the disease early, when it is easier to treat. Screening can even prevent the disease by finding colon growths, called "polyps," which can then be removed before they become cancerous.

What You Can Do

The American Cancer Society recommends that everyone age 50 and older talk to their doctors about colorectal cancer screening and find out which test is best for them. A wealth of information about prevention, detection and treatment of colorectal cancer and other types of cancer is available on the ACS website at www.cancer.org. They even have a colon cancer screening reminder tool, which will send you an email when it is time for your next screening. According to the ACS, nearly 30,000 American lives could be saved each year if everyone age 50 and older were tested for colorectal cancer.

New Online Web Permit and Information System

Earlier this year, the Community Development Department upgraded its web-based permit tracking system to provide online access for both contractors and residents. With this new upgrade, residents and contractors are now able to access permit and application information as well as complete simple permits processes online from the convenience of home, office or local coffee shop.

The web link, <http://permits.losgatosca.gov>, will allow residents and contractors to look up information

on applications, permits and parcel permit history. The Town is in the process of adding additional functionality to this online system to allow for contractors and residents to obtain simple permits, schedule inspections and check the status of applications. Soon it will only take a matter of minutes to obtain minor permits such as water heaters, furnace placements, re-roofing and electrical permits. The Town expects to have web permitting fully functional by the end of October 2007. Look for more information in future publications regarding web permitting in the Town of Los Gatos.

Household Hazardous Waste

Does your household have batteries, motor oil or fluorescent light bulbs you need to get rid of? These items are known as household hazardous waste and cannot just be thrown away! Did you know there are many safe ways to dispose of your household hazardous waste right here in our community? The Town of Los Gatos provides funding to the Santa Clara County Household Hazardous Waste Program to ensure that

our residents have earth-friendly and convenient options when disposing of household hazardous waste. Participating is easy and free! Use this guide below to locate drop off locations close to home or log onto the Town's website www.losgatosca.gov and click on Resident Services then Trash/Recycling for more information on where and how to dispose of household hazardous waste. For a list of other area drop off locations visit Santa Clara County's

Household Hazardous Waste website at www.hhw.org or call them directly at (408) 299-7300. Let's work together to keep our community beautiful!

Household Batteries – Excluding Auto Batteries

Los Gatos Ace Hardware

15300 Los Gatos Blvd.
Los Gatos, CA 95032
(408) 356-7103

Radio Shack

15734 Los Gatos Blvd
Los Gatos, CA 95032
(408) 358-3166

Rural Ace Hardware

110 S. Santa Cruz Ave.
Los Gatos, CA 95030
(408) 354-3910

The Terraces of Los Gatos

Front Desk
800 Blossom Hill Rd.
Los Gatos, CA 95032
(408) 356-1006

Fluorescent Bulbs and Tubes

Los Gatos Ace Hardware

15300 Los Gatos Blvd.
Los Gatos, CA 95032
(408) 356-7103
Mon-Fri: 8 am – 8 pm
Sat: 8 am – 6 pm, Sun: 9 am – 5 pm

Rural Ace Hardware

110 S. Santa Cruz Ave.
Los Gatos Ca 95030
(408) 354-3910
Mon-Sat: 8 am – 6 pm, Sun: 9 am – 5 pm

Mercury Thermometers

RSD

1050 Commercial St #105
San Jose, CA 95112
(408) 297-9453

Pacific Coast Trane Co

890 Service St Unit A
San Jose, CA 95112
(408) 437-0390

Bring entire thermostat

San Jose City College Health Services

2100 Moorpark Avenue
San Jose, CA 95121
(408) 288-3724
Mon. – Thurs. 9 am – 3 pm & 5 – 8 pm

Cell Phones/Cell Phone Batteries

The Wireless Foundation: Call To Protect

Proceeds benefit victims of domestic violence
Drop off location:
Viking Performance Chiropractic
15545 Los Gatos Blvd. #B
Los Gatos, CA 95030
(408) 358-9800

AT&T, Sprint, Verizon and Nextel all offer programs on cell phone recycling and/or buy back. Contact your local dealer for details.

West Valley Collection & Recycling, LLC

WVC&R has a drop-off facility for TVs, computers, household batteries, motor oil and water-based paint.

They will also supply residents with free disposal containers for motor oil and oil filters.

Call for appointment.
(408) 283-9250

Visit the WVC&R website for more details on recycling and household hazardous waste for the Town of Los Gatos www.westvalleyrecycles.com

Electronic Waste

Household electronics such as televisions, computer systems, monitors, key boards, mice, disk drives, laptops, PDAs, printers, digital cameras, camcorders, VCRs, DVD players, stereos, microwaves.

Visit www.recyclestuff.org

Or call the recycling hotline at 1-800-533-8414

Or visit www.ecycle.org

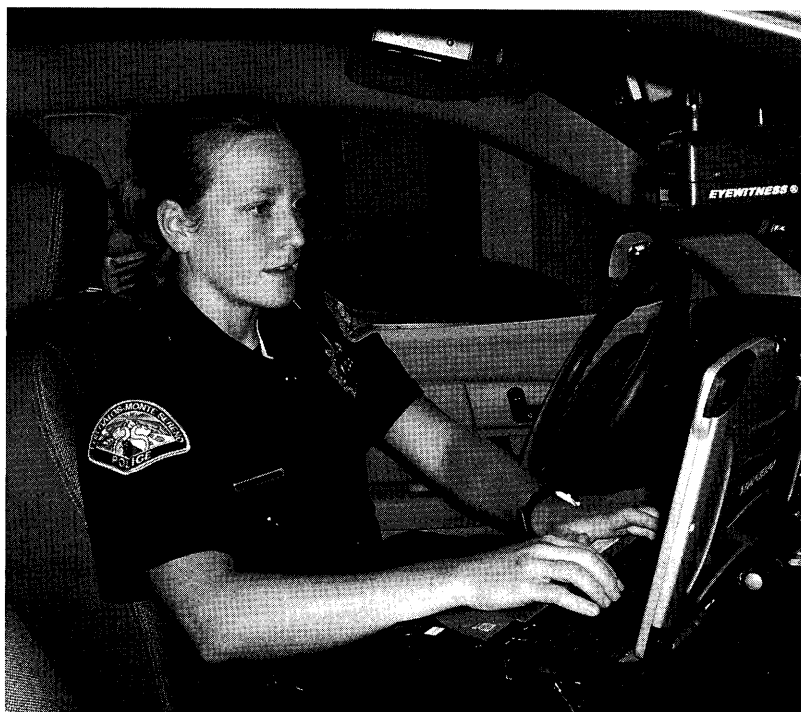
Used Motor Oil and Oil Filters

Speedee Oil Change

15643 Los Gatos Blvd.
Los Gatos, CA 95032
(408) 356-9301

Police Deploy Video Technology in Cars

Beginning this fall, the Police Department will outfit its cars with video cameras to record the activities and interactions of officers. Increasingly, police departments are using mobile video in cars to record contacts on the street, including arrests and traffic citations. The cameras record both video and audio onto a digital hard drive located in the trunk of the car. The video is captured from a camera inside the car and the audio from a transmitter on the officer's belt. The recordings can be critical to clearly document what occurs during a citizen contact. The Police Department has used an earlier version of the technology previously; however, it was removed in 2004 due to reliability problems. This new project will reinstate this important evidence gathering tool to benefit both the officers and our residents. In addition to the digital recording system, the department will be updating the computers in the cars which officers use to check records, confirm identity and write crime reports.



Youth Commission Selected as Showcase Program

The Los Gatos Youth Commission began its fourth year in September with several returning members being joined by a number of new commissioners and alternates. The Youth Commission is an advisory body serving the Town Council by representing Los Gatos youth. Members meet the second Tuesday of each month in the Town Council Chambers at 7 pm. Interested community members are invited to attend, observe or offer ideas to the Commission. The Commission focuses on broad issues identified by both youth and the Town Council.

The Police Department is the Town's liaison to the Youth Commission, a relationship that is unique compared to other youth commissions around the country. Due to that relationship, the Los Gatos Youth Commission has been selected as a "Showcase Program" and will be specially highlighted at the National League of Cities Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana in November. Six youth commissioners will travel with Town staff to New Orleans to attend the conference and represent the Town in the showcase exhibit.

Subscribe to the What's New! Email Delivery Service:
www.losgatosca.gov/new

Holiday Events

Holiday Tree Lighting November 30 4 pm

Sponsored by the Town of Los Gatos Community Foundation, this annual event is the official kick-off to the Los

Gatos holiday season. It is so much fun, Santa Claus usually makes time in his busy schedule to attend. This year, it is rumored that he will come by at 6 pm, and stay one hour for photo opportunities. For more information please visit the Town's website at www.losgatosca.gov.

Holiday Parade December 1 11 am

The 51st Annual Children's Christmas and Holiday Parade will be held on the first Saturday in December. Bands, floats, youth groups, horses - and, of course, Santa Claus - will make it a real hometown parade and holiday celebration. It is sponsored by the Los Gatos Lions, Los Gatos-Saratoga Community Education and Recreation and the Town. For more information, contact the Recreation Department at (408) 354-8700, or visit its website at www.lgsrecreation.org.

Santa in the Plaza December 2, 16, 23 11 am - 3 pm Town Plaza Park

Santa Paws December 2 11 am - 3 pm Town Plaza Park

Following his successful appearances at the Holiday Tree Lighting and the Holiday Parade, Santa will settle down with his elves in Town Plaza Park for some one-on-one time with his littlest fans. Bring your camera to record the moment and start your holiday season by visiting Santa on Sunday, December 2, 16 or 23, from 11 am to 3 pm. Back by popular demand, "Santa Paws Day" will be held Sunday, December 2, from 11 am to 3 pm. When you come, bring your four-footed friend for a special picture with Santa. Hosted by "Santa in the Plaza" Committee & Los Gatos - Saratoga Recreation Department. For more information please call (408) 354-8700, or visit its website at www.lgsrecreation.org.

Holiday Carriage Rides Throughout the season Downtown

Hear those sleigh bells ringing? Every holiday season, the Los Gatos Chamber of Commerce sponsors holiday horse drawn carriage rides through downtown Los Gatos. This year, the old fashioned tradition will have an up-to-date option: reservations may be made online, through the Chamber's website. For more information, or to make a reservation, call the Chamber at (408) 354-9300, or visit its website at www.losgatoschamber.com.

Shop Los Gatos: 5% Buy Local Holiday Challenge

Shopping in Los Gatos this holiday season takes on a whole new element of being "green," when residents participate in the Town's first Shop Los Gatos 5% Buy Local Holiday Challenge. During the entire month of December, residents are encouraged to shift at least 5% of their holiday purchases to local businesses. This small shift in holiday shopping patterns can make meaningful impacts to the health of our environment, the vitality of our local business community, and the quality of our municipal services.

Commit to the 5% Buy Local Holiday Challenge and help reduce carbon impacts created when traveling to other communities. Local stores help sustain vibrant, compact, and walkable town centers, which in turn are essential to reducing sprawl, automobile use, and air pollution.



Support local prosperity by choosing to shop in Town, and receive personalized customer service while finding unique gifts. Remember when you choose to support a Los Gatos business you directly benefit from making the local choice, as one cent out of every 8.25 cents of sales tax per dollar of sales comes back to the Town. Sales tax revenues support many important municipal services including our parks, our streets, our library books, our police officers, and much more.

Lastly, to add to your holiday season, the Town of Los Gatos will mail a special Discovery community map during the first week of December that highlights local shops, restaurants, and wineries. Do your part this holiday season: Shop Los Gatos and Invest in Community!

Holiday Valet Parking Program

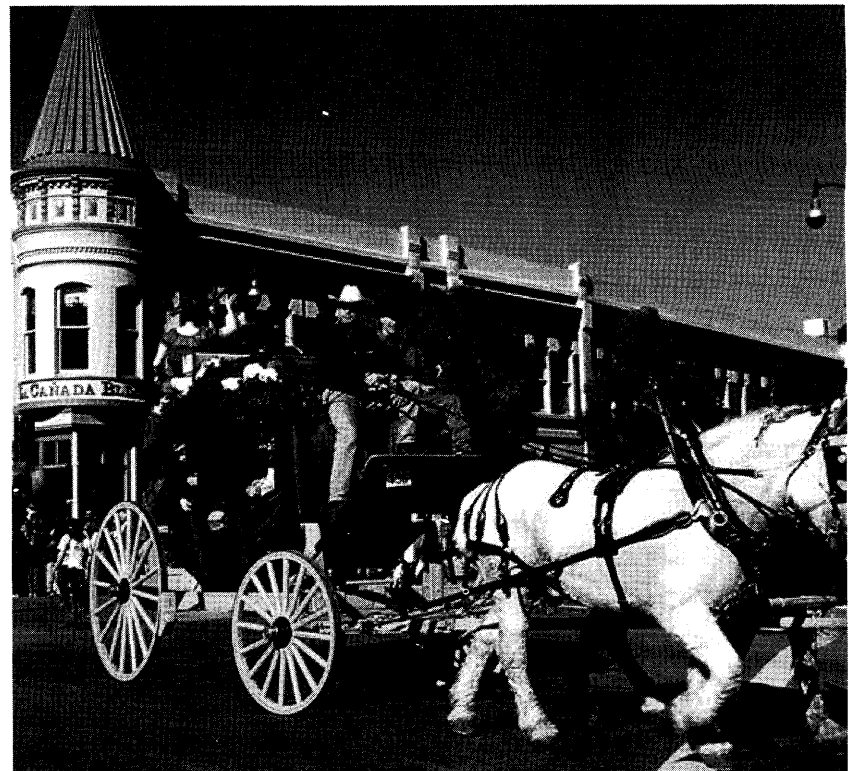
Here it comes again, the wonderful but frantic holiday season. And with this season come all the familiar sights, smells, and feelings of the holidays. However, anyone who has ever tried to find parking to do some holiday shopping knows that those familiar sights, smells, and feelings may become the sight of full parking lots, the smell of exhaust, and the feeling that online shopping is the way to go.



This holiday season, for the seventh consecutive year, the Town will provide a free holiday valet parking program to help meet the holiday season's additional parking needs, and to support the local business community by creating a positive shopping experience for customers. The program will begin, Friday, November 23 and run Tuesdays through Saturdays thereafter until December 23 from 9 am - 9 pm each day. The valet service will be located in Lot 4, off University Avenue between Grays Lane and Elm Steet. Free self-parking is always offered in the following lots:

- Park Avenue Lot, off West Main Street, near the Los Gatos Coffee Roasting Company
- Montebello Lot, on Montebello Avenue, next to the Los Gatos Post Office
- Miles Avenue Lot, on Miles Avenue east of Edelen Avenue
- North Side Lot, on Highway 9 between University and Santa Cruz Avenues
- South Side Lot, on South Santa Cruz Avenue, across from the Toll House Hotel

For more information about parking in downtown, visit the Town's website, www.losgatosca.gov, go to "Living in Los Gatos," "Getting Around Town" and choose "Where to Park."



Financial Help with Home Repairs

Since 1976, the Town has provided loans to hundreds of Los Gatos homeowners through its Housing Conservation Program. Funded through the federal Community Development Block Grant program, the Housing Conservation Program provides low and no interest loans to income-eligible homeowners, for home repairs which correct housing code violations, alleviate overcrowding, minimize potential fire hazards and improve health, safety, accessibility and home security conditions. Typical repairs include:

- installation of new roof
- installation of grab bars in bathroom
- installation of smoke detectors
- remodeling of kitchen to meet current building codes
- abatement of any lead-based paint

- securing of water heater
- installation of GFCI outlets

The Housing Conservation Program offers a practical solution to lower income homeowners, particularly seniors and others on fixed incomes, faced with a list of costly home repairs. The program helps residents stay in their homes when they might otherwise be forced to sell, and contributes to the general safety and attractiveness of Los Gatos neighborhoods.

Who is Eligible?

Program eligibility is based on federal income limits by household size. In order to qualify, a household's annual income must not exceed 80% of the median income set by the U.S. Department of Housing and Community Development.

The current income limits are as follows:

Persons in Household	Maximum Annual Income
1	\$59,400
2	\$67,900
3	\$76,400
4	\$84,900

How Do I Apply?

The Housing Conservation Program is administered on behalf of the Town by the Santa Clara County Office of Affordable Housing. For more information, or to obtain an application, contact the Santa Clara County Office of Affordable Housing at (408) 441-4323. More information about the program is also available on the Town's website at www.losgatosca.gov, search Housing.

Rental Dispute FAQ

Did you know that you can receive confidential, free counseling about tenant-landlord issues? The Town's Rental Dispute Resolution Program can help you with questions about rent increases, maintenance, and deposits. Following are some Frequently Asked Questions about the program:

1. What services are available through the Rental Dispute Resolution Program?

The program offers confidential counseling and information services to both tenants and landlords in all rental housing situations. The program provides telephone conciliation services for dispute resolution in rental properties

with two or more units. Mediation and arbitration processes are available when there are three or more units. All services are confidential and neutral. The services are only available for properties located within the Los Gatos Town limits, and only for rental housing, not commercial units.

2. What kinds of rental disputes are subject to the mediation and arbitration procedures; what kinds of disputes are not covered?

The program's rental dispute procedures are available for any type of dispute between a current tenant and the landlord. These include rental increases, repairs and maintenance, and invasion of privacy. However, the program cannot interfere with pending unlawful detainer

actions. The program does not cover cases when the tenant no longer lives in the premises giving rise to the dispute, for example where there is a dispute about failure to return a security deposit, or after a tenant has been evicted, unless there is an issue of retaliation.

3. Is there any charge for any of the program services?

All services are free to the parties, both tenants and landlords. The program is funded by a fee paid by owners of multi-unit rental properties.

4. Which rental properties are subject to rent control?

Rent control limits only apply to properties with three or more rental

units. The limits only apply to current tenants. They do not apply to new tenants moving into units which are vacant due to a voluntary departure by the prior tenant, or which are vacant because the prior tenant violated the applicable rental agreement or lease.

5. How do I get more information?

For counseling or more information, contact the Los Gatos Dispute Resolution Program at (408) 402-0307, extension 10. The program is administered by Project Sentinel, a non-profit agency contracted by the Town of Los Gatos. A full copy of the applicable ordinance and regulations and the forms necessary to process a case are available. More information is also available on Project Sentinel's website, **www.housing.org**.

Talk Back...

We'd like to hear from you. Please send us your comments, ideas, thoughts, or concerns.

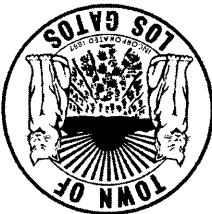
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Return to: Town Manager, Town of Los Gatos, P.O. Box 949, Los Gatos, CA, 95031/Fax to: (408) 354-8431/Email to: manager@losgatosca.gov.

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TOWN OF LOS GATOS

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OUR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Calendar of Events

Date	Time	Event	Location	Contact
Mondays	10:30 am	Toddler Story Time	Library	(408) 354-6891
Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays	3 – 5 pm	Books Together	Library	(408) 354-6891
Tuesdays	10:30 am	Pre-School Story Time	Library	(408) 354-6891
Thursdays	7 pm	Family Storytime	Library	(408) 354-6893
October 28	3 – 4:30 pm	Halloween Costume Cat-Walk	Civic Center Lawn	(408) 354-6834
November 9	7 – 9 pm	Library Friends Forum	Library	(408) 354-6896
November 11	6 – 8 pm	Los Gatos Art Association Exhibit Reception	Council Chambers	(408) 354-6834
November 13	10 am – 8 pm	National Young Readers Day	Library	(408) 354-6893
November 17	noon to 2 pm	Senior Thanksgiving Dinner	Neighborhood Center	(408) 354-1514
November 28	1:15 pm	Senior Wednesday Afternoon Movie	Neighborhood Center	(408) 354-1514
December (TBD)	6:30 pm	Senior Holiday Dance	Neighborhood Center	(408) 354-1514
November 30	4 pm	Holiday Tree Lighting	Town Plaza Park	(408) 354-6834
November 30, December 1 – 2, 7 – 9, 14 – 23	by appointment	Holiday Carriage Rides	Downtown	(408) 354-9300
December 1	11 am	Holiday Parade	Downtown	(408) 354-7800
December 2, 16, 23	11 am – 3 pm	Santa in the Plaza	Town Plaza Park	(408) 354-7800
December 2	11 am – 3 pm	Santa Paws Day	Town Plaza Park	(408) 354-7800
December 7	10:30 am	Children's Library Event	Library	(408) 354-6893
December 12	9 am	Library Book Discussion	Library	(408) 354-6896
December 19	1:15 pm	Senior Wednesday Afternoon Movie	Neighborhood Center	(408) 354-1514
January 23	1:15 pm	Senior Wednesday Afternoon Movie	Neighborhood Center	(408) 354-1514
February 27	1:15 pm	Senior Wednesday Afternoon Movie	Neighborhood Center	(408) 354-1514
March 26	1:15 pm	Senior Wednesday Afternoon Movie	Neighborhood Center	(408) 354-1514
April 23	1:15 pm	Senior Wednesday Afternoon Movie	Neighborhood Center	(408) 354-1514

For a complete calendar of Town events, visit the Town website at www.losgatosca.gov, and click on "What's Happening!"